

Daniel P. Vrakas
County Executive



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Meghan Walsh – Executive Assistant, (262) 548-7902

VRAKAS AND NEWCOMER PROMOTE GOVERNMENT CONSOLIDATION
Constitutional Amendment Provides Incentive for Sharing Services to Achieve Efficiencies and Cost Savings

WAUKESHA – Waukesha County Executive Dan Vrakas and State Rep. Scott Newcomer (R-Delafield) announced their support of a state constitutional amendment that promotes consolidation by allowing government agencies to maintain different property tax levy rates for 12 years as an incentive for sharing services.

Vrakas said, “This proposed change to Wisconsin’s constitution will allow cities, towns, villages, school districts, counties and other taxing authorities to get married and maintain separate checkbooks. It is a win-win for communities looking to consolidate services to gain efficiencies and cost savings, as well as for the residents living in those jurisdictions.”

Vrakas drafted the amendment while serving in the state assembly, and he was pleased to learn that Rep. Newcomer, his successor, was committed to putting the finishing touches on the legislation and introducing it for first consideration by the legislature.

Newcomer said, “This amendment is good for government because it provides them with a blending period prior to becoming one taxing body, which has been a roadblock in past efforts to consolidate. I am pleased to introduce and advance this legislation that will promote operational efficiencies and cost savings to taxpayers.”

Vrakas will testify before the Assembly Committee on Urban and Local Affairs on the amendment at the State Capitol on Thursday, April 20 at 10 a.m.

He will also continue to lobby state lawmakers so that voters of the state have an opportunity to vote on and approve a constitutional amendment that will enable their communities to reap the benefits of service consolidation.

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1320 Pewaukee Road • Room 320
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53188
Phone: (262) 548-7902 • Fax: (262) 896-8510
TDD: (262) 548-7903
www.waukeshacounty.gov